# TO FRIENDS IN IRELAND,

And elsewhere;

A Mournful Word to the merry-hearted in *Zion*; with a word of Comfort to her Bowed down Mourners.

Written in great Excercise of Soul & Spirit in Obedience to the LORD.

By THOMAS UPSHER.

Wo to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. *Luke* 6 v. 25.

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor Jesting, but giving thanks. *Ephes.* 5. vers 4.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. *Matth.* 5 vers. 4.

These are they which came out of great tribulations, & have washed their Robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb. *Rev.* 7. vers. 14.

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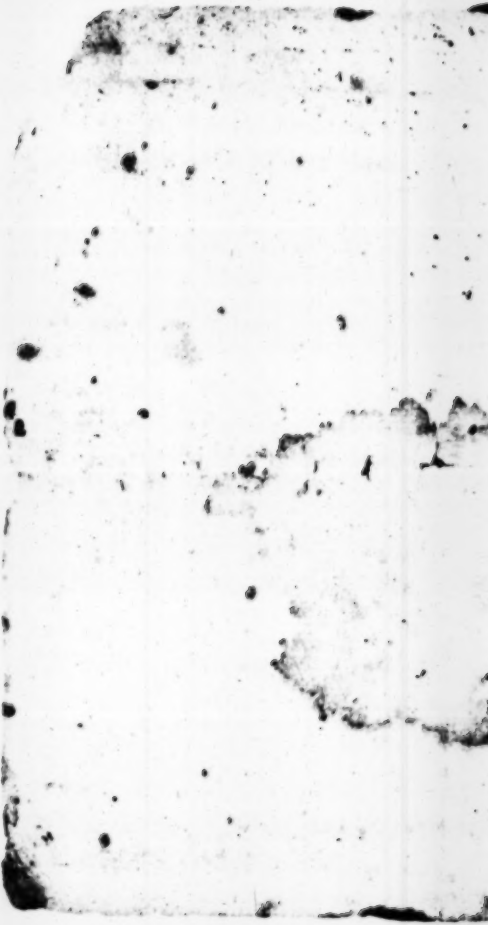


*A mournful Word to the merry hearted in Zion: with a Word of Comfort to the Cast down mourners.*

FRIENDS that profess the self-denying way of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, (who was a Man of sorrows, and deeply acquainted with grief,) and yet are of a jolly spirit, and of a merry heart, who can laugh and jest at pleasure, saying, *There is no harm in it.*

I have this to say to you, whether you will hear or forbear, that the Lord is displeased with you, and calls for Mourning and Weeping in secret places instead of Laughter and Jesting in Company. And I must needs tell you, that if ever you were rightly bowed and humbled in

ſenee of your loſt and undo
ſtates, and were made to lament &
mourn in the ſight and feeling of you
wretchedneſs, you have too ſoon
quitted that exerciſe; you have no
paſt often enough through the fire,
neither have you been baptized e
nough with the Waters of many tri
bulations. You have not drunk ſuf
ficiently of the Cup of trembling a
the hand of the Lord, and therefor
you muſt come down from you
pleaſant and delightful Seats, an
be humbled as in Duſt and Aſhes be
fore the Lord of Hoſts, whoſe fir
is in *Zion*, and his furnace in *Jeru
ſalem*; and you muſt paſs through
it again, and again, till all you
droſs is taken away, and all you
light chaff be burnt up. O! Friends
you are thoſe that are at eaſe in *Zion*
and have taken up a reſt too ſoon
and now the Lord is about to diſturb
you, and rouze you up out of you
falſe ſecurity; Bleſſed are thoſe tha
are willing to come forth to Judg
men

ment at the found and Alarum of the Trumpet of his eternal Word: for I proclaim in the Lords power that the time haſtens and draws on apace that Judgment ſhall eminently and ſearchingly begin at the houſe of God, in his Sanctuary, amongſt his people that are peculiarly called by his name; and the unfaithful, the Hippocrite, and Rotten-hearted, ſhall tremble with the ſhaking horror of his ſearching Judgments. And you that are jolly ſpirited, merry hearted, and that take liberty to laugh, joque, and jeſt at pleaſure, the very Pillars of your houſe ſhall tremble, you ſhall weep and mourn in ſolitary places, and ſtrow your tears in ſecret Corners.

Therefore take warning I pray you, and be humbled before the Lord, and cry mightily to him night & day, that he may take vengeance ſpeedily upon that idle and airy ſpirit, from whence ſprings theſe things

things that are contrary to the mournful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. O! I entreat you watch & pray, yea, cry mightily to the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, that he may crucify and utterly slay this Nature in you, which hath often led you to forgetfulness of God, and hath vailed and darkned you many times.

Is it not think you very sorrowful to consider how a great many in a little time after they have come out of a good Meeting, where they have been under a sence of the Lords power, and have been reach'd with a tendering Visitation, fall to idle, silly, needless discourse, and it may be to laughter and jesting, which I declare is as contrary to what they were before as darkness to Light; and tell them of it, they will say, they think no harm; Well I tell you there is harm in it you hurt your selves and others, and you lay a stumbling

stumbling block in the way of the weak; you are bad examples; you give occasion to them that are without; for tho' they may seem to be pleased with your Company and Conversation they will by ridicule and slight you as to Religion, and will as I have heard some say, *Such an one is as merry as we; for all his serious Principles he will jest, and laugh and joke, and speak at large, as well as we.*

These things are not of a good savour; how do you think this will answer the End of your holy calling, which is to be the salt of the Earth, as Lights in the World, as a City set on a hill that cannot be hid. Trees of Righteousness bringing forth much fruit to the glory of God, fruits of self-denyal, heavenly fruits while you are on Earth, giving a manifest Testimony that you are true followers of the Lamb through great tribulations. I would have you well

gainſt Reproof, and puff up their hearts in wantonneſs againſt this tender advice.

Methinks ſome will be ready to ſay, *What would'ſt have us Melancholly, Moroſe, always reſerved & ſhut up from innocent Communication?* I anſwer no, for that would be an extream on the other hand: that which I am deeply concerned to ſpeak againſt, is *Laughter*, *fooliſh Talking*, and *Jeſting*, and ſuch like. And that which I am ſpeaking for, is *Temperance*, *Sobriety* and *Moderation*, with watchfulneſs over our Words, Actions, Deportment, and behaviour, at all times, and in all places, upon all occaſions; remembring the ſaying of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, *That we muſt give an account at the day of judgment for every idle Word we ſhall ſpeak.*

I do tell you again in much aſſu-

rance

rance, that the great God of the Spirits of all flesh calls for mourning at your hands, and happy shall they be that answer his Call in time.

And now I am under a necessity to remind you of the late Prophecy of that antient eminent and faithful Messenger and Minister of Jesus Christ, *William Edmondson*, in *Dublin*, at this half Years Meeting: The substance of which was, "That a dreadful day "of distress was hastning on apace, so "should surely come, in which the "Lord would dung the Ground in "this and other Nations, with the "Carcasses of Men, and that the Lord "would shake the fair and lofty Buil-"dings of many, with their pleasant "things that they have delighted in. And this will surely come to pass as ever it was spoken; Therefore Friends be not of an unbelieving Heart, Of surely that Council is good to you, which the Lord by the Prophet

ſider Chriſt's Words in the 6 th. C
*Luke* *wo to you that laugh now for y*
*ſhall weep and mourn*; And alſo th
Apoſtles Words, *Epheſians* 5 t
where he ſpeaks of *Fornication Cov*
*tuſneſs, Uncleanneſs, and Filthineſ*
telling them theſe things do not b
come Saints neither *fooliſh talking*
*nor jeſting, but rather giving of thank*
And conſider Chriſt Jeſus your Ca
tain and Saviour, of whom it is ſa
"he was never ſeen to laugh, but ha
"often been ſeen to weep.

It is to be feared ſome of you wi
harden your hearts, and put at lea
a ſilent ſlight upon this Warning an
Counſel; But ſuch ſhall know aſſi
redly in a day of diſtreſs and bitt
adverſity (which ſhall certainly b
their portion) that theſe ſayings a
not idle tales nor yet ſuch little ma
ters as ſome would make them; th
while they are fat and full, and in
day of proſperity thy may kick
gain

Prophet *Amos* gave to *Israel*, when he threatned them with sore Judgment, which was on this wise: *Thus will I do unto thee, O Israel and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God O Israel*, Amos 4.

But my Heart mourns. Ah! I am distressed in my Soul, my bowels are pained within me for the sake of those that will have their own Will, and go on their old Road let the Servants of the Lord say what they will as his Ambassadors and Ministers: but I am satisfied there is a Remnant that will embrace this Warning and Counsel, and forsake, leave off and turn their backs upon these foolish things and thankfully come and drink a bitter Cup of Condemnation and Judgment for their By-past Jests, Laughter and wantonness of speech and behaviour: And they shall come to mourn for all these things by which

grief of my Spirit, I pray you, I be
seech you with beseechings, tak
warning; take the Counsel, an
Advice of a poor Servant of th
Lord; haste and come away out o
these foolish customs and practices
and touch with them no more fo
ever, then shall my sorrowful Sou
rejoice in the Lord for your sakes
and you shall reap the peace an
advantage of it to your poor im
mortal Souls, when life and time
with all these lower Comforts sha
fail you.

So to the Light and Spirit of Trut
I commit you, which will readil
show you in your selves those thing
that are contrary to the life of Chris
and will give you power against the
if you be faithful to its blessed an
holy discoveries: And it will ena
ble you to shine forth in sobriety
gravity, humility, and temperanc
in all things to the Glory of th
everlastin

verlasting God, and the promotion
of it denying life, then shall it be
ill with you whatever Judgments,
Calamities and Miseries, come upon
the Children of disobedience.

And now a few Words of Comfort
to those that are bowed down Mour-
ners in *Zion*, who are faithful to the
Lord, but are deeply afflicted with
Temptations, Tryals and Sufferings
many ways, which makes them to
fear, they shall not hold out to the
End. Dear Friends, I can call you
dear, for so you are to the Lord and
to my Soul, and I will surely shew you
what the Lord has shown and sealed
to me in the Word of life, which is
even this wise.

That you are his Peculiar and Choice
Jewels, and he hath a very tender re-
gard to you, and as you have your
eye to him and cleave to his Spirit in
your hearts, he will surely keep you
as

which they regardlesly part awa
much precious time, and are greatly
behind hand in their days work
Salvation, which is to be wrough
in fear and trembling, *Phil.* 2. ver
12. Not in Laughter and Jesting
and they shall mourn and lament be
cause of their misspent time, a
they shall be diligent to redeem it
and they shall redeem it.

And the Lord will make the
brave and honourable Men and Wo
men in his Work and Service. an
will make them shine in his comin
in the life of Righteousness and fil
denial. So their last days shall be thei
best days, the nearer they grow, t
their Grave, the nearer they shall b
to the Lord, and the clearer shall b
their assurance by his Spirit of his
eternal love to them.

Finally my Friends, to whom I a
writing in the bowed downness a
be

as the Apple of his Eye, and he will not ſuffer the devouring to violate you; and tho' at times you may be toſſed with tempeſts and deeply afflicted & hardly beſet on every hand, & may ſeem for a time as if you were forſaken of the Lord, and you may be ready to doubt whether ever he will appear to your Joy and Comfort again: And tho' it may be ſo that you think your Condition not to be equall'd, and are like poor *David* who ſaid in his diſtreſs, after he had ſeen the great deliverance of the Lord at ſeveral times, *I ſhall one day fall by the hand of Saul.* Yet the Lord God of his rare mercies gave him to ſee the deſire of his Soul at laſt, and delivered him out of all diſtreſs. Even ſo will the Lord do for you, whoſe minds are ſtay'd upon him, and truly truſt in him, and therefore let patience have its perfect Work. Be endeavour to be content with the dealings of the Lord, for he knows beſt what is beſt for you: And have a great

care you are not instrumental for want
of Patience to encrease your exercise
For I know be my own Experience
that when the Lord brings the Soul
into the fiery Furnace, which is the
Spirit of Judgment and burning, *Isa.*
4. then the Enemy he works to make
it uneasie and restless under the purify-
ing Judgments of the Lord; And then
if it be not watchful it grows impa-
tient. and here a cloud of Exercise
& Doubtings comes over it, and some
times is almost brought to the Gates
and Jawes of Despair. And thus a
multitude of unprofitable Afflictions
has come upon some for want of Pa-
tience and for want of being resigned
and given up in all things to the Will
of God. to trust their All in his hands
being faithful and diligent in his
Work.

Again, sometimes the LORD is
pleased to hide his Face for a moment,
for the exercise to the Soul; according
to

to his great Wisdom for its good? Then the Enemy he works again to bring into impatience, and if he prevails, then he labours in the next place, to set the Soul at work for it self without the LORD to get enjoyments of its own, and kindle sparks of Fire, by the heat and Struglings of its own Spirit. And now again abundance of exercises follow upon this, for these empty Flashes hold not long; when the Soul comes to be sensible, it lies down in sorrow, and sometimes the LORD is pleased to suffer it to dwell, as in Land of Drought for a season, and now is ready to be cast down into great discouragements again: And all this is for want of true patience, and a free and constant giving up of the will to the will of GOD, and to become as Clay in the Hand of the Potter, Read *Isa.* 50. *ver.* 10 11.

And therefore this is the word of

Advice, which I tenderly give unto
all such, as are in deep exercises of
Afflictions, upon your Souls accounts

1. Wait often upon the LORD, not
only in Meetings, but out of Meetings
also, that you may feel his Power to
subject your Wills to his Will, and
in every thing to be resigned to his
disposal and dealings, and then Hard
things will be made Easie, and Bitter
things will be made Sweet. And in
the LORD's time, through many Tri-
bulations, you shall come forth as
Gold refined, and your
Warfare shall be accomplished, and
your Iniquity pardoned, and you shall
dwell for ever in that City, wherein
the Inhabitants shall not say I am Sick,
but the People that dwell therein shall
be all Righteous, and the LORD
shall be your everlasting Light, and
your GOD your Glory, and
days of your Mourning shall be
Sorrow and Sighing shall

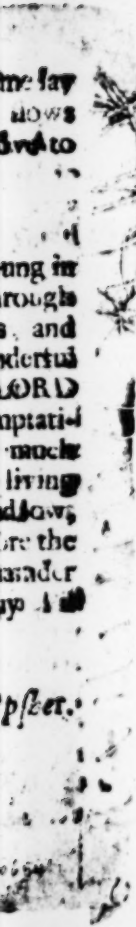
And then your Bowed down ones of many Afflictions you shall lift up your Bowed down heads, and by living experience sing that blessed Song of *Zion*, That the LORD GOD eternal hath turned your Captivity as the Streams of the South, and has done great things for you, whereof you are glad, he hath turned your barren Wilderness and desolate Desert, into an holy and heavenly Paradise, where you Eat of the Tree of Life, and Drink of the Water of Life freely.

I can say my Heart overflows with love to you poor afflicted Souls every where, and I do sympathize with you according to my experience, and do pray to the LORD for you, that you may have Patience, and be resigned unto the hand of the LORD, subject to his will in all things; and then [illegible] doubt but he that has laid the Foundation

Foundation, will in his own time lay the Top-Stone also, I say this now from in a spring of pure Love to you.

From one, who (tho young in Years) have past through many deep Exercises, and have seen the wonderful deliverances of the LORD in many great Temptations, and have as much reason as any man living to keep humble, and low, and watchful, before the LORD, all the dayes of my Pilgrimage.

*Thomas Upsher.*

*Dublin* 15th of the 3d Month 1693.

*The End.*